

Trophy for 1st spring

Drawn 250

71 200 000 000

For spring water

Curios and Relics

Railsplitting Curios

Trophy for Railsplitting

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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FRANK Y. HILL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
MEXICAN-AMERICAN BANK BUILDING
LAREDO, TEXAS

May 16, 1947

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I herewith enclose photostat of news item and cut of a trophy ounce belonging to Abraham Lincoln. The news item explains how this trophy came into possession of my family and is in full of the history of the object as far as we know it. We assume it is authentic.

The trophy is in the possession of my mother Mrs. L. D. Hill and she wishes to place it in some Lincoln Museum but we have been unable to determine the best place for it. We understand you are interested in the life of Abraham Lincoln and are writing to you to see if you will please advise us whom we should contact in placing this trophy in the best museum.

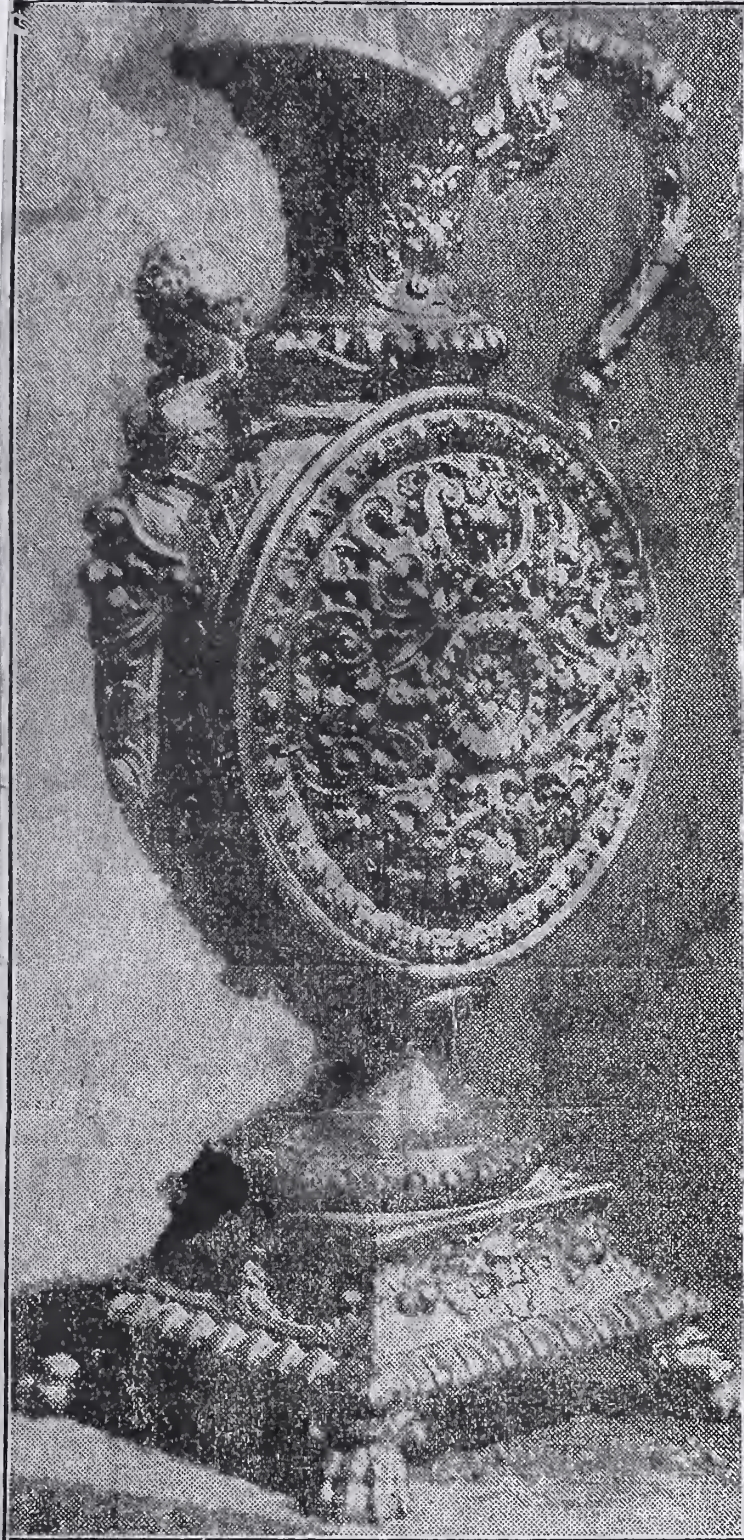
We shall appreciate very much any suggestion you may make.

Yours very truly,


Frank Y. Hill

FYH:os

Abe Lincoln Once Won This In Rail-Splitting Contest



This bronze trophy was once won by Abe Lincoln in a "rail-split" contest in 1854, according to an inscription on the side of the pitcher. It is now the property of Dr. W. B. Young, Nashville, and was brought to him by Judge and Mrs. L. D. Hill, who recently visited Mrs. Neva Young Hood, a cousin of Mrs. Hill's, at Santa Rosa, Cal. Mrs. Hood is the only living descendant of Dr. Byrd Young, who emigrated from Jackson county, Tennessee, to California, in 1867. He had just finished medical school at Philadelphia, where he had also married, and became one of the most successful physicians of the Santa Rosa section, where he and his young wife located after driv-

ing across the country.

The pitcher came into the family through Dr. Young, who received the bronze trophy from a friend who had gone to California from Kentucky.

The pitcher was evidently designed as a hiding place for valuables. It is not open at the top, and several screws which control the door to the compartment are cleverly concealed in the scroll work at the side. Inside is inscribed the date 1818 and beneath the following inscriptions:

"Won by Rio de Janeiro in shooting contest in Rio de Janeiro City."

Beneath this is the following:

"Won by Abe Lincoln in rail-split contest, 1854."

May 19, 1947

Mr. Frank Y. Hill
Mexican-American Bank Building
Laredo, Texas

My dear Mr. Hill:

I regret exceedingly that we do not have facilities for displaying the type of material which you have in your possession so closely associated with Abraham Lincoln.

If you will write to the Illinois State Library at Springfield, Illinois, I think it is quite likely they would be pleased to receive this interesting curio.

Thank you, nevertheless, for calling it to our attention and with your permission we should be glad to keep the clipping for our file, as we often have inquired about other things.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

May 12, 1901

Mr. J. M. Smith
Houston, Texas

Dear Sir:

I regret exceedingly that we do not have facilities for displaying the type of material which you have in your possession. It is, however, our desire to have a collection of such material in our library. If you will write to the Library Service Bureau at Springfield, Illinois, a small collection of such material would be placed at your disposal. We are, of course, unable to pay for such material, but we are sure that you will be pleased to have it.

I thank you, nevertheless, for calling it to our attention and will your attention be drawn to the fact that the Library Service Bureau is now in the process of collecting material for our use, and we would have much pleasure in having your collection added to it.

Very truly yours,

Director

Library

